

A Bad Spell.

(New York Tribune.)

You have heard of the City of Sioux—
The loveliest ever you know—
And the following tale,
I am sure cannot fail
To be read with emotion by you.

To this bustling young city of Sioux,
Came a son of Albion trioux;
When the name was pronounced
In his hearing, he frowned,
And at once in a passion he bloux.

"Now, tell me, O people of Sioux,"
He shouted, "What can a man dioux?"
As 'tis spelled, so we say it,
And that is the way it
Should be!" And he blustered and bloux.

And all through the City of Sioux,
That man raised a hullabaloux;
With madness enraged,
Like a tiger uncaged,
And laid upon Gentle and Joux.

As over the City of Sioux,
He rushed, till the madder he grioux,
Till he fell in a fit,
And his soul promptly it
Left his body—sans further adjoux.

Then the coroner's jury of Sioux,
Their verdict most solemnly drioux,
"By disease of the heart,
Victim's life did depart."
You have heard the sad tale; I am trioux.

BRITISH POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Below we furnish our readers with an interesting statement of the English postal savings system, taken from the last volume of the "United States Consular Reports." The English Government was the first to establish these banks, and her system, as now perfected and carried on, is being adopted by other countries, with the same success, that has attended hers.

Accompanying the report in the volume here referred to, are several statistical tables, from which we gather the following items: The total number of depositors on the first day of January, 1883, was 2,458,976, and the amount standing to their credit was £41,128,564, equal to about \$205,642,280. Of this total \$5,518,585 has been invested in Government bonds, in the names of depositors, the average being \$346 to each. During the last year reported, the deposits amounted to nearly three millions sterling.

The report justly states: "Not only is it desirable to place every incentive towards saving before individuals of a nation for their own sake, but also for the ultimate benefit of the nation itself; the gain to which is both immediate and direct. It is universally admitted that the wonderful and unprecedented recovery of the French nation from its financial war embarrassments was due mostly to the number and amount of the small hoardings of the small farmers and peasants, whose depository was some dark corner of the cottage—a constant source of anxiety productive of no interest."

Circumstances indicate the establishment, in the near future, in the United States, of a postal savings bank system; therefore some interest will probably attach to the figures presented in the recently issued report of the English Postmaster-General. It appears that not only has each succeeding year of the twenty-two that have elapsed since the savings bank was inaugurated shown a decided increase in the volume of business, but that the system is rapidly becoming all but universal, as nations are one by one beginning to appreciate its great merit as an encouragement to thrift and industry. Not only is it desirable to place every incentive towards saving before individuals of a nation for their own sake, but also for the ultimate benefit of the nation itself; the gain to which is both immediate and direct. It is universally admitted that the wonderful and unprecedented recovery of the French nation from its financial war embarrassments was due mostly to the number and amount of the small hoardings of the small farmers and peasants, whose depository was some dark corner of the cottage, a constant source of anxiety and productive of no interest. But the French Government has, in the last two years, provided a secure place of deposit by establishing a postal bank; so also has Austria, whose Emperor made the first deposit on the first day of this year. The Netherlands, Italy, Canada, and portions of Australia are maintaining the system; while Sweden, Switzerland, and some of the British colonies are making inquiries with a view to its adoption.

In the English system the requirements are surprisingly few and simple, and the checks to fraud secure and effectual. Deposits of one shilling are received, the limit being £30 per year, or £150 altogether from one depositor. Single pennies may be saved by purchasing stamps with them, the stamps being then affixed to a prescribed form, and paid in as a shilling deposit when twelve are accumulated. Each depositor gets a book in which deposits are credited; besides

which he receives in due course through the mail a receipt through the head office at London for each amount. Interest is allowed at the rate of two and a half per cent, and is credited each year, on the anniversary of the first deposit, in the depositor's book, which is supposed to be forwarded at that time to London for the purpose. The books, as well as all matters pertaining to the savings bank department, travel postage free and are mailed unstamped.

It is further provided that if a depositor's account foot up a certain amount, he may, if he desires, transfer it into Government stock. Should a depositor make application for this transfer, he is charged with the market price of the stock and a commission and a "certificate of investment" if sent him.

Withdrawals are easily effected, and deposits can be taken out with but little delay at any postoffice desired, the only step necessary being to procure a warrant from the head office at London, which will be cashed on presentation with the pass-book at the designated postoffice.

It is provided by law that the authorities controlling "charitable" and "provident" societies and "penny banks" may, on filing a copy of their rules, be allowed to deposit considerably beyond the usual limit, or even under certain circumstances without restriction as to amount. Under this law authority was given last year to 1,533 societies to deposit their funds in the savings bank, and a similar permission was accorded to 283 penny banks, 151 of which were in schools, where direct effort is made by means of circulars, suggestions from teachers, etc., to encourage habits of saving and self-denial. In London alone, in the year 1881, the sum of £1,416 was deposited by some 4,500 depositors in the London Board School Penny Banks.

But this fatherly care manifested by school boards in the savings of their flocks is equalled by the Government in its endeavors to encourage laborers to thrift, and the result is seen in a practice which, though most excellent in itself, could only exist amongst the "paternal" Governments of Europe. It would justly be considered by the American laborer an unwarrantable interference were the nearest postoffice to send a clerk to stand at his side on pay-day and encourage him to make a deposit then and there in the postal savings bank; yet such a practice has been pursued in England for years and with success.

Police Court.

Police Justice Bickerton's docket on Tuesday last was made up of nine cases. Of these Punki, Maluieha, Kapuli and John Rice, four in all, each contributed \$6 to the Government Treasury on a charge of drunkenness.

Naillili, who demolished \$4 worth of fence which encloses the merry-go-round on Queen street, was fined \$8 and \$1 costs.

Kaee, k, pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace of Monday night, and was fined \$6 and \$1 costs.

August Fernandez, who lives on Beretania near South street, Monday evening hospitably invited a Chinaman named Ah Sam, who was passing his residence, to step in and make the acquaintance of his wife. Subsequently the two parties engaged in an affray over a financial question, and both were arrested.

Police Justice Bickerton's docket Wednesday contained no cases of drunkenness.

Two boys named Kanane and Palea, arrested for truancy, were brought up. The former was reprimanded and discharged, and the latter held for trial.

Paulina, w, arrested for deserting her husband, was discharged; the matter having been amicably settled outside of Court, the husband paying \$2 costs.

Mrs. Fernandez, arrested for assault and battery on the person of a Chinaman named Ah Sam, on Monday night, will be tried with her husband, August Fernandez, also implicated in the matter, next Monday.

Kailipaka, who was arrested on Friday last for trying to pass a false bill of exchange for upwards of \$500, was discharged on motion of the prosecution.

Wailua, w, arrested on Monday for disorderly conduct of an immoral character. Fook Ju, arrested for having opium in his residence, by Officers Mehtens and Akina, was tried, and the Court reserved its decision.

In the Police Court, Thursday morning, Justice Bickerton transacted the following business:

Pinewe pleaded guilty to a charge of drunkenness, and was fined \$6.

Luakaha, arrested on the same charge, forgot to put in an appearance to answer the charge, and consequently forfeited his bail.

Elia Kaululaan pleaded guilty to an assault on a woman named Annie, and he was fined \$5, and \$3 costs.

Puhiki, arrested on a charge of an assault on Kealaka with a gun. The latter had a dispute with the former about some boots, when the former drew a gun and threatened to kill the latter. Puhiki was sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor for six days, and pay a fine of \$10, and \$3 costs.

Wailua (w), charged with immoral conduct on the Esplanade last Monday evening, was found guilty, and sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor for one month.

BY-WAYS OF HONOLULU.

NO. IV.

There are very many unexpected little nooks that one stumbles upon in the by-ways of Honolulu, that are pleasant little conservatories of old time Hawaiian life and manners.

Noticeably is this the case in the heart of Kepehone (anglice Cape Horn). Just here the coral reef underlying the town comes to the surface and forms a low, bold cliff, on which are built many small houses. In old times, when whalers' crews pervaded Honolulu to an alarming extent (there being sometimes the men of two hundred vessels ashore on liberty at one time) and silver coin overflowed the tills of the drinking saloons and dance-houses, this region was chosen by Jack as his resting place. He dubbed the points and curves of the land "Cape Horn," "Icy Cape" and "Cape of Good Hope." Near at hand was "Japan Sea," and in and about the little alleys and lanes moved sailors from all parts of the world, escorted by laughing companions of both sexes. This period of wild orgies, lavish scattering of coins, wholesale drinking of intoxicants, and indiscriminate licentiousness was terminated by the gradual withdrawal of the whaling fleets, and Cape Horn relapsed into a state of stagnation, from which it has never recovered. Many old residents of the section held on to their homes and lands, and their descendants still vegetate where they were born. They returned to the primitive life that had been disturbed by the whalemen, and in and about their dwellings are still to be seen in use the mats, calabashes and poi-pounders, and other home belongings of the old time. There are many white-haired old men and women, who, in their quiet retreats, doze out the shortening years; there are groups of half-ill families still to be found living in the Hawaiian style. It is in these regions that one finds sea-weed, shell-fish, sea urchins, whelks, limpets and periwinkles, forming the integral part of their daily food. Here Hawaiian is spoken. Not the curious nondescript jumble of English and Hawaiian that is used so much in the more Anglicized part of the city, but the soft, musical language that is so suggestive of mirth and gentle good nature.

As for the morals of the district, they are fairly good, especially in those portions lying beneath the walls of Kaumakapili Church. This really imposing edifice of brick rears two lofty towers high above the surrounding buildings. It stands on the site of the huge old native church whose thatched roof often covered a congregation of two thousand people. There are still old people to be found who remember when the audience, seated in rows upon the ground, listened to the missionary, and eagerly drank in the truths he presented to them. They also remember when, on more than one occasion, a huge pig, the property of a chief, wandered into the building and the people shrank away to the right and left to give him passage. How his porcine lordship would gravely stroll up the church and settle himself in the midst, where his snores somewhat marred the speaker's eloquence.

Now there stands cheek-by-jowl, as it were, with the church, a large building devoted to the Chinese Society. Its dragon-guarded roof, its emblazoned pennons, its streaks and daubs of glaring color are in marked contrast to the severely plain brick-work of its larger neighbor. The one devoted to the worship—once in seven days—of God is yet unfinished. The other, in which red prayer papers are burnt by the thousand before the squat image of a demi-god, is completed and never without worshippers.

In Cape Horn, on the shores of Japan Sea, at Icy Cape are to be found green patches of grass and a few common flowers that multiply as one works their way further up the stream, until at length they merge into a broad grassy flat checkered with ancient taro patches, and here and there shaded by great trees. Looking out on this pleasant level are neat houses perched on high posts, neatly latticed, and bright with white and green paint. They are the present habitations of those who once lived in the decaying grass huts near at hand. There are still to be found, however, a few old-fashioned people

who cling to the hut, and contentedly cook their food in primitive style.

All, whether in huts or houses, have as pets one or more dogs each. They are Hawaiian dogs, too; that is, they repose in listless indolence while the natives come and go, but rouse into frantic noisiness upon the approach of a white stranger. They bite, sometimes, but generally their value lies in the noisy shrill bark with which they wake the neighborhood. They are always to the fore, save when the Tax Assessor comes around, and then they vanish.

There are plenty of children all about this region. They are a healthy looking lot, as a rule, and full of noise and fun. They much affect the banks of the stream, and are in and out of the water a dozen times a day. Their mothers do not trouble themselves about how often they go in swimming, and if they did, they couldn't tell whether their offspring had been in or not from the dampness of their shirts, for they don't wear any.

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